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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UK

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH ON UNSC MIDDLE
EAST DEBATE

1. BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR MORETON CALLED ON SISCO SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 10, TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. MORETON BEGAN BY RECALLING DECEMBER 13 KISSINGER/CALLAGHAN CONVERSATION IN LONDON AND BRITISH DESIRE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US ON SC DEBATE. LAST WEEK BRITISH HAD LEFT AN AIDE-MEMOIRE OUTLINING THEIR THINKING ON A POSSIBLE MODERATE RESOLUTION WHICH THEY HAD DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH IN NEW YORK. THEY WANTED TO KNOW OUR REACTIONS TO THIS MODERATE PACKAGE. ALLON IS GOING ON TO LONDON MONDAY AND THEY WISH TO BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE BEFORE HE ARRIVES.

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2. SISCO BEGAN BY COMMENTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A LARGE

MEASURE OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ALLON AND KISSINGER ON
US/ISRAELI POSITIONS BUT THAT
AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED, IN SPITE
OF WHAT WAS SAID PUBLICLY.

3. SISCO SAID THE US DOES NOT BELIEVE THE SC CAN BE HELPFUL
TO THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT THE US
DOES NOT WANT THE SC TO BE THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENTALITY
FOR THIS PROCESS, AS THE SYRIANS SEEM TO WISH. AT THE
OUTSET OF THE DEBATE WE ARE ASSUMING THAT A PROPOSAL ON
PLO PARTICIPATION WILL BE PUT TO THE MEMBERS IN
ESSENTIALLY SAME MANNER AS WAS DONE DURING DECEMBER DEBATE,
I.E., NEITHER UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 37 OR 39 BUT WITH
THE SAME EFFECT AS UNDER RULE 37, SO THAT PLO WOULD
PARTICIPATE AS IF IT WERE A MEMBER STATE. IN THIS CASE,
AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN WILL INTERVENE AND CALL FOR A VOTE;
THE US WILL MAKE A STATEMENT, AND WILL VOTE NO RPT NO.
OUR OBJECTION WILL BE BASED ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS:
SEATING A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, AS PLO, AS IF IT
WERE A MEMBER STATE, WOULD OPEN PANDORA'S BOX TO UN-
FORTUNATE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

4. IN REGARD TO SUBSTANCE OF DEBATE, SISCO COMMENTED
THAT PLO APPEARS TO BE PUTTING PRESSURE ON SYRIA, AND
IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT WHAT WILL EMERGE FROM SYRIAN/PLO
NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONSTITUTE AN ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE GENEVA
FRAMEWORK AND WILL THEREFORE NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO US. WHEN
ASKED BY MORETON IF US COULD ACCEPT MENTION OF PALESTINIAN
RIGHTS AND ENTITIES, SISCO SAID THAT
WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE RESOLUTION, BUT THAT WE WOULD
VOTE AGAINST MENTION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND ENTITIES.
MENTION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY WOULD BE EVEN WORSE FROM
OUR STANDPOINT.

5. SISCO ELABORATED FURTHER THAT THE US WILL MAKE ITS
JUDGMENT ON WHOL: RESOLUTION WHEN WE SEE IT AND THAT HE
COULD NOT DISCUSS SPECIFICS NOW. US ATTITUDE IS TO WAIT
AND SEE HOW MATTERS EVOLVE AND SEE WHAT IS PUT FORWARD
BY OTHERS. WE HAD CONSIDERED MERITS OF AN EARLY US
INITIATIVE TO SUBMIT A RESOLUTION, BUT HAD DECIDED

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AGAINST IT. WE WILL KEEP IH CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH
AS MATTERS DEVELOP AND CONSULT ON ANY SPECIFIC TEXT.

6. WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY HOPE THAT NO RESOLUTION
MIGHT EMERGE, SISCO POINTED OUT THAT WE WISH THIS COULD
BE THE CASE BUT HE PERSONALLY HAD NO HOPE THAT A WIDE-
RANGING DEBATE OF AN EXPECTED TWO-WEEK DURATION COULD
HAVE NO CONCRETE OUTCOME. IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION

OF WHAT WE HAD CONSIDERED FOR OUR OWN RESOLUTION, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE REAFFIRMATION OF 242 AND 338, A CALL FOR THE RESUMPTION OF GENEVA, AND WITH

NO REFERENCE TO THE PALESTINIANS, BUT WE HAD DECIDED THAT THIS WOULD NOT GET THE REQUIRED SUPPORT.

7. PRINCIPLE OF US POSITION IS OPPOSITION TO ANY CHANGE WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE 242 AND 338, AND THE ORIGINAL PURPOSES OF THESE RESOLUTIONS. US BASIC STRATEGY IS TO KEEP OUR POWDER DRY AT THE OUTSET. THIS IS AS FAR AS THE US HAS GONE AND OUR APPROACH TO ANY RESOLUTION WILL RELY HEAVILY ON THIS PRINCIPLE.

8. SISCO FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAS NOT ENDORSED THE ISRAELI CABINET POSITION AND THAT ISRAELIS ARE MUCH MORE CAT:GORIC THAN US THAT EVERYTHING MUST BE VETOED. US DOES NOT AGREE WITH ALLON'S POSITION IN STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION WAS TO CORRECT THE MISTAKE WE MADE IN THE POSITION WE ADOPTED IN NOV SC ROUND ON SC RES 381.

9. FINAL US POSITION WILL BE DETERMINED ON BASIS US INTERESTS WITH THE CONSIDERATION THAT WE DON'T WANT ALL DIPLOMATIC DOORS CLOSED AND US ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AMONG ALL PARTIES DESTROYED. BRITISH SHOULD KNOW THAT THE IMPORTANT QUESTION FACING THE US IS WHETHER POLITICAL CAPITAL SHOULD BE EXPENDED IN THE SC OR OUTSIDE. US BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THAT GAP IN THE SC CAN BE BRIDGED SO THAT IF THERE IS A MEANS FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE ME IT MUST BE FOUND OUTSIDE SC. OUR PROBLEM THUS IS SECRET

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TO DETERMINE WHAT IMPACT OUR ROLE IN SC IS GOING TO HAVE ON FUTURE ONGOING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

10. WHEN ASKED IF US AGREED THAT NO CHANGE IN TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GENEVA SHOULD BE MADE, SISCO STATED THAT OUR POSITION ON GENEVA PARTICIPATION WAS WELL KNOWN. ANY CHANGE WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN GENEVA OR BY PREP COM. HE RECALLED THAT GENEVA PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED THAT QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS HAD TO BE DECIDED BY GENEVA GROUP ITSELF. WE MAKE IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN SUPPORTING CHANGE IN GENEVA CONTEXT OR IN SC CONTEXT. HE ADDED THAT WHAT MAY BE POSSIBLE OUTSIDE SC IS NOT NECESSARILY POSSIBLE AS SC RES.

11. MORETON ASKED WHETHER HE THEN SHOULD CONCLUDE THAT

US HAD NO SPECIFIC ADVICE TO OFFER ON UK DRAFT. SISCO
REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT GO BEYOND GENERAL PRINCIPLES
STATED ABOVE. US BELIEVED IT BEST FOR TIME BEING TO
WATCH HOW DEBATE EVOLVED. KISSINGER

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